

MARK UDALL
2ND DISTRICT, COLORADO

100 CANNON HOB
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2161
(202) 226-7840 (FAX)

8601 TURNPIKE DR., #206
WESTMINSTER, CO 80031
(303) 650-7820
(303) 650-7827 (FAX)

291 MAIN ST.
P.O. BOX 325
MINTURN, CO 81645
(970) 827-4154
(970) 827-4138 (FAX)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0602

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE
AND AERONAUTICS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER
AND POWER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

October 11, 2007

<http://markudall.house.gov/HoR/Co02/home>

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid:

I write to urge that you retain in the final version of new energy legislation several provisions I authored and championed that were included in H.R. 3221, the "New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act."

I am particularly proud that the House-passed bill includes the first-ever national Renewable Electricity Standard (RES), an amendment that I championed with Rep. Tom Udall, Rep. Todd Platts, and other members. This important provision will require utilities to acquire 15 percent of their electricity from wind, solar and other renewable energy sources by 2020. The implementation of a national RES will benefit rural communities, save consumers money, reduce air pollution, and increase reliability and energy security. Its inclusion in the House bill is a great victory, and I believe the provision must be retained.

H.R. 3221 also includes two provisions I authored to help our country begin to properly address the challenge of global climate change. One will strengthen and streamline the federal global climate change research program with the key input of State and local officials. This shift will help us move research beyond whether climate change is occurring and begin to seriously examine what these changes will be and how our society can best adapt. The second provision will help us move forward with technology to capture and sequester carbon emissions, because coal and other fossil fuels will remain for the foreseeable future an important source of energy for our country. Creating safe, sound and economical carbon capture and storage strategies is the key and my provision will move us toward that goal. I think it is important that these be included in the final version as well.

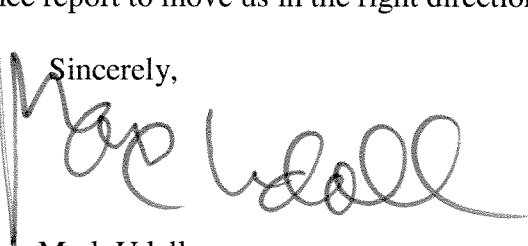
The House bill also includes a provision I worked on, with Representative John Salazar, to protect the top of the majestic Roan Plateau in Colorado, allowing leasing to continue but ensuring the protection of the critical wildlife, wildlife habitat and open space that are of economic importance for hunting and recreation. Representative Salazar and I listened closely to the concerns of the local communities and believe this approach respects their wishes and allows us to move forward in a responsible manner with gas production, and we think this provision should be retained.

The bill also includes important protections I added for our rural Colorado communities to help them respond to the Bush Administration's rush to develop oil shale resources on public lands. My language will enable local governments to tap monies, funded by royalties from future oil shale leasing, to assist them in paying for infrastructure and public services made necessary by any commercial oil shale development. The legislation also requires the Bureau of Land Management to take a more thoughtful and deliberative approach in conducting its environmental analysis of commercial development of oil shale in rural Western areas.

Finally, H.R. 3221 includes several provisions I proposed to safeguard lands and landowners from overzealous resource development. These new policies will ensure that water resources, the most precious of commodities in the western United States, are more protected when oil and gas are produced on federal lands, that federal lands impacted by leasing are restored to support their previous uses, and that surface owners with federally-owned minerals underneath their lands have a say in what happens on their lands. I request that you help to keep all these provisions in the final energy legislation. These initiatives are of great importance to all Coloradans, and will also help begin the process of putting our country on a path toward energy independence, increasing national security and economic growth, and addressing global warming.

I am grateful for your leadership in passing energy legislation out of the House and Senate that decreases our vulnerability and dependence on foreign energy sources and increases our national and energy security in a way that honors our obligations to the next generation. Now I ask for your help in retaining the provisions I've proposed in the final conference report to move us in the right direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Udall', written in a cursive style.

Mark Udall